

of Marriage Equality. This past September, the New York Historical Society held a ceremonial groundbreaking for the American LGBTQ+ Museum, New York's first museum dedicated to LGBTQ+ history and culture, which is set to open in 2024. This new installation honoring Ms. Windsor was made possible through the contribution of artifacts from her archive by her widow, Judith Kasen-Windsor.

Edie Windsor first became involved in the fight for equality after the 1969 Stonewall Riots and quickly emerged as a leader. Her historic challenge to the unconstitutional Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) compelled the federal government to recognize valid marriages between same sex couples and paved the way for marriage equality in the United States.

Ms. Windsor grew up during the Great Depression, the youngest of three children in a Russian Jewish immigrant family. She received her undergraduate degree from Temple University and a master's degree in mathematics from New York University. The following year she began to work at IBM and was steadily promoted to the top technical position during her 16 years at the company.

In 1963, Edie Windsor met her first wife, Thea Spyer. Two years later the couple began dating. They became engaged in 1967 despite the lack of legal recognition of same sex couples anywhere in the United States. After the 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, Ms. Windsor and Ms. Spyer became more involved in sup-

porting and advocating for rights for the City's LGBTQ+ community. Ms. Windsor volunteered with the LGBTQ+ Community Center, the East End Gay Organization, Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders, and the 1994 Gay Games in New York. She also served on the board of Services & Advocacy for the LGBT GLBT Elders (SAGE) and help found Old Queers Acting Up, a social justice skit comedy and improvisation group.

In 2009, Thea Spyer passed away, leaving the entirety of her estate to her wife, Edie. Due to DOMA, Edie Windsor was prohibited from claiming the estate tax exemption for surviving spouses and was faced with a nearly half million-dollar tax liability. In 2010, Ms. Windsor sued the federal government for a full tax refund in a series of court cases that made it all the way to the Supreme Court in 2013. In 2013, Edie Windsor's suit was upheld by the Supreme Court ruling finding DOMA unconstitutional. This validation of her decades long partnership with Ms. Spyer was not only a vindication for Ms. Windsor but for countless LGBTQ+ couples around the Nation. Two years later, the Supreme Court made marriage a constitutional right guaranteed to all Americans. In 2016, Ms. Windsor found love again, marrying Judith Kasen-Windsor. Ms. Windsor's passing in the fall of 2017 marked the end of a truly heroic life spent championing equality.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the extraordinary gumption and the incomparable advocacy of Ms. Wind-

sor on behalf of the entire LGBTQ+ community throughout her long and accomplished life.

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HONORING BRYCE DAVIS

HON. RICK W. ALLEN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 7, 2022*

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my constituent, Bryce Davis, upon his acceptance to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

As a future cadet, he will be joining the ranks of the world's most fearsome fighting force—the United States Army—guided by duty, honor, and country.

The service and sacrifice of America's military personnel have safeguarded our Nation since its inception, defending our way of life from Lexington to Normandy.

And throughout our history, American soldiers have demonstrated tremendous courage and strength, beating back tyranny to the ends of the earth.

I was glad to sponsor Bryce's nomination and I am confident that his talents will distinguish him among his peers both during his time at West Point and thereafter.

I congratulate Bryce, and know that he will make this Nation proud.